

The best history of the pending trouble with Spain will be found in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, from week to week.

National



Tribune.

To learn how the United States make war read Headley's "Great Rebel lion." See 12th page.

ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1898.—TWELVE PAGES.

VOL. XVII—NO. 27—WHOLE NO. 870.

AN IMMINENT CRISIS.

United States Ready for War with Spain.

A Week of Tense Excitement—The President's Message Withheld to Allow the Withdrawal of All Americans from Cuba—Appeal of the Foreign Ambassadors—Firm Reply of the President—The Diplomatic Decks Cleared for Action.

DELAY IN TRANSMITTING THE MESSAGE.

Our record of current history closed at Tuesday noon of last week with the statement that the President's Message to Congress had been signed and sealed, and in all probability would be transmitted to Congress on Wednesday. The National Tribune contained what was believed to be a very fair outline of the contents of the Message.

Congress fully expected the message on Wednesday, and an immense throng, far beyond what the galleries could accommodate, visited the Capitol. Thousands were unable to even get near the corridors of either House.

But at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning the President received a most portentous telegram from Consul-General Lee, who had not been heard from since early Tuesday morning. It reiterated the fact that it would be impossible to get the Americans off the island before Sunday, and said that there were no less than 2,000 of them. It went further. It appealed to the President not even to send to Congress his Message for armed intervention before the American citizens were safe on land, and he could be cause otherwise they would fall victims to the uncontrollable fury of the Spanish mob and Spanish volunteers.

When the President was handed this message he decided not to face alone the responsibility which the sending of his communication to Congress would entail upon him. He summoned Secretary A. T. Secretary Long, and other members of his Cabinet; Senators Davis, Fry, and L. Lee, of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Representatives Hopkins, of Illinois; Barry, of Kentucky; Adams, of Pennsylvania; Dismore, of Arkansas; Sayers, of Texas, and Newlands, of Nevada, representing all parties in the House, and especially the Democratic personnel of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Leaving the Capitol, where an enormous multitude of people were awaiting the message, these gentlemen were speedily at the White House and in the presence of the President.

The President stated the situation to them and showed them the telegram. This was further corroborated by dispatches from the agents of steamship lines running out of Havana.

One stated that if the Spaniards were convinced that hostilities were about to begin, they would either blow up the Olivette by the submarine mines in the harbor or else they would sink the ship by a bombardment from the guns of Morro Castle.

The Senators and Representatives immediately returned to the Capitol. In the Senate, Senator Davis, as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, at once called for an Executive session. The crowd, to its great disgust, was turned out of the galleries, and then, in the secrecy of locked doors, the Senator communicated what he had learned, and gave notice that the message would be postponed until Monday.

Does the Senator from Minnesota know a message has really been prepared? asked Senator Chandler of Senator Davis.

Yes, was the response.

Did the Senator see the message?

Yes, again replied Senator Davis.

Did the Senator read the message?

He replied to the Senator.

And is the message one for which we are about to wait?

Finally inquired Senator Chandler.

(Continued on second page.)



MR. J. M. THURSTON.

MR. J. H. GALLINGER.

MR. W. B. ALLISON.

MR. J. T. MORGAN.

MR. J. S. MORRILL.

MR. REDFIELD PROCTOR.

MR. C. K. DAVIS.

MR. E. O. WOLCOTT.

MR. W. E. MASON.

MR. F. J. CANNON.

MR. J. B. FORAKER.

A Corner in the Senate Chamber During the Discussion of the Spanish-Cuban Question.

Our special artist presents above an interesting scene in the United States Senate Chamber during one of the exciting days pending the discussion of strained relations with Spain growing out of the Cuban revolution. The portraits presented are characteristic likenesses of men whose names are mentioned daily in the Washington dispatches.

On the left of the picture the tall Senator with his hands in his pockets is Mr. Thurston, of Nebraska. He is talking with Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, presumably about some incident of their recent trip to Cuba, concerning which both of them addressed the Senate upon their return. The journey to Cuba was marked by a tragic incident in the death of Mrs. Thurston, the wife of the Senator, on board the steam yacht in which they visited the island, in the harbor of Matanzas.

The Senator with the silver hair and beard in the center of the picture is Mr. Allison, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Just in front of him looking over a document is Senator Proctor, of Vermont. Farther to the right is Senator Cass, an K. Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, who will be recognized by his slight resemblance to the late Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. In front of him on the extreme right sits the eloquent Senator Mason, of Illinois.

Just beyond and to the left of Senator Davis sits Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, the "Silver Senator," and on his left Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, another "Silver." In the far background in the center will be noticed an old man, who is the venerable Senator Morrill, of Vermont, the father of the Senate, who this week celebrates his 88th birthday.

On the right holding a document in his clasped hands is Senator Foraker, of Ohio, who is earnestly talking to Senator Morgan, of Alabama, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and an ardent friend of Cuba. Between them and a little to the rear stands the young Senator, Mr. Cannon, of Utah.

Senator Morrill was a member of the House of Representatives, and as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee reported the war tariff bill of 1862.

Mr. Allison, the Iowa Senator, is an Ohio man by birth. He went to Iowa at an early day, and entered public life on the staff of the War Governor, Sam Kirkwood, organizing troops for the war of the rebellion. During the last year of the war he was elected to the popular branch of Congress.

Senator Proctor has had a long and popular career also in the service of his native State. During the war he was Lieutenant and Quartermaster of three regiments of Vermont infantry, on the staff of "Baldy" Smith, and then Major of the 5th and Colonel of the 15th.

Senator Davis was also a soldier, serving as First Lieutenant in the 28th Wis. Senator Foraker had a brilliant war record for a boy. He enlisted as a private when only a few days over 15 years old, in the 80th Ohio, and rose to the rank of First Lieutenant and Brevet Captain, who led his company in the charge up Mission Ridge.

Senator Morgan, with whom he is conversing, is a picturesque figure in the Senate. During the last two years of the war he commanded an Alabama brigade in the Confederate army. He is an intense American, and has long been prominent as an advocate of the annexation of Hawaii and the liberation of Cuba from Spanish sovereignty. The third member of the group, Mr. Cannon, is one of the youngest members of the Senate, having been born in 1859, and is by profession a journalist.

Senator Thurston, likewise, was too young to have been in the war, but he is a prominent member of the Order of Sons of Veterans. Although born in Vermont, he was reared and educated in Wisconsin, and his father died as a private in the 1st Wis. Cav.

Senator Gallinger, has passed his life in civil pursuits, being by profession a physician.

THE BATTLESHIP INDIANA.

A Fighting Ship Which Has Not Her Superior in the World.

Our naval policy has always been quality and not quantity. We have never aimed to have as many ships as other powers, but striven to have those that we did build superior to any others of their class afloat. We have been astonishingly successful in this. In the days of frigates and sloops we had the best frigates and sloops in the world, and they never met an enemy except to conquer him in a surprisingly short time.

We have tried to do the same in our more recent ship-building. How well we have succeeded remains to be determined by the supreme test of actual battle, but we are confident that, ship for ship, our vessels are superior to any of their class that sail the seas.

For heavy, crushing blows we have four first-class battleships, one second-class battleship, two modern double-turreted monitors, and one "barbet-turret, low free-board monitor." The Indiana is a specimen of the first-class battleships.

She has 10,393 tons displacement, the same as the Massachusetts and Oregon, but less than the Iowa, which has 11,340. She has enormous engines of 9,378 horse-power, propelling her through the water at the rate of 15 knots, or 17 1/2 miles an hour, nearly as fast as the average speed of ordinary passenger trains.

She has two main turrets, each mounting two 13-inch rifles 40 feet long, and weighing 63 tons apiece. Besides these she has eight 8-inch rifles in smaller turrets, with four 6-inch rifles, and 25 smaller pieces. The protection consists of a water-line belt of Harveyized nickel steel armor, extending through the machinery and boiler spaces, and to the basis of the main turrets.

Our picture shows the Indiana under way, and in full fighting trim. It is a very unusual picture, since the usual way is to take vessels lying quietly at dock or anchor.

The Volunteers.

The War Department has received nearly a million applications from those who are willing to serve their country in the military branch. Preference will be given to volunteers of the National Guard and State militia, and to those under the command of the authorities of the State troops have been advised that the citizen soldiers shall be summoned to the various armories and notified of the disposition of the Government to prefer National Guardsmen. Those of the latter who do not volunteer for general service will be retained in the State organizations, subject to the call of the Governors for the defense of the States. The War Department may issue an order in the next few days defining the duties of National Guardsmen and State militia.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Received by Congress After Much Delay.

Large Crowds Waited for it at the Capitol—The Reading Accompanied by Almost No Demonstration—President Does Not Advocate Independence—Desires Authority to Intervene.

At 8 o'clock on Monday morning, last, long lines of people stood waiting for the doors of the Capitol to open, in anticipation of the Message on the Cuban question. The House and Senate does not meet till noon, as all knew, but there was a determination on the part of thousands to be on time.

The galleries were not opened till 11 o'clock, at which time the long lines had surged and swung gently back and forth from the door as a pivot till many were weary and foot-sore, but their enthusiasm held them to their positions.

When the doors opened there was a rush, but many were disappointed after all. In conformity with the prearranged plan only those who held tickets could ascend the marble stairway to the galleries.

Soon after noon the momentous document arrived, and the reading clerks at both ends of the Capitol began to drone out the President's arraignment of Spain's brutality in Cuba. To the readers all documents are alike; whether galleries and floors are crowded or the chambers empty, the reading rings out to reach the farthest corner. The scene was one of intense expectancy. The interest was rapt. The crowd was respectful.

At the close there were a few handclaps on the floor of the House, but the galleries quietly filed out when the motion to refer the message to the Committee on Foreign Affairs was made and carried without division.

In the Senate there was even less excitement.

Was Congress staid by the sense of a new responsibility, or were the Nation's Legislators disappointed?

There was no means of knowing, because they probably did not know themselves. They adjourned gravely in the Senate, and in the House proceeded to other business in a perfunctory way. The reserve was oppressive.

THE MESSAGE.

The President arraigns Spain for a catalog of crimes that make us wonder why it should be considered expedient to consider anything but the measure of punishment called for by the circumstances. Nothing in the horrible story of blood and starvation is omitted, but we still meander over the sickening wastes of diplomacy.

He notes that the revolution in Cuba is but the successor of other similar insurrections, in each of which the United States has been subjected to great expense and loss to trade. He reviews the phases of the present conflict, the course taken by President Cleveland, his own review of the situation in December, measures of relief for the reconcentrados, and the recent efforts to bring about a termination of the warfare. He refers to President Grant's action in 1875, "when, after severe years of sanguinary, destructive, and cruel hostilities in Cuba, he reached the conclusion that the recognition of the independence of Cuba was impracticable and indefensible, and that the recognition of belligerence was not warranted by the facts according to the tests of public law."

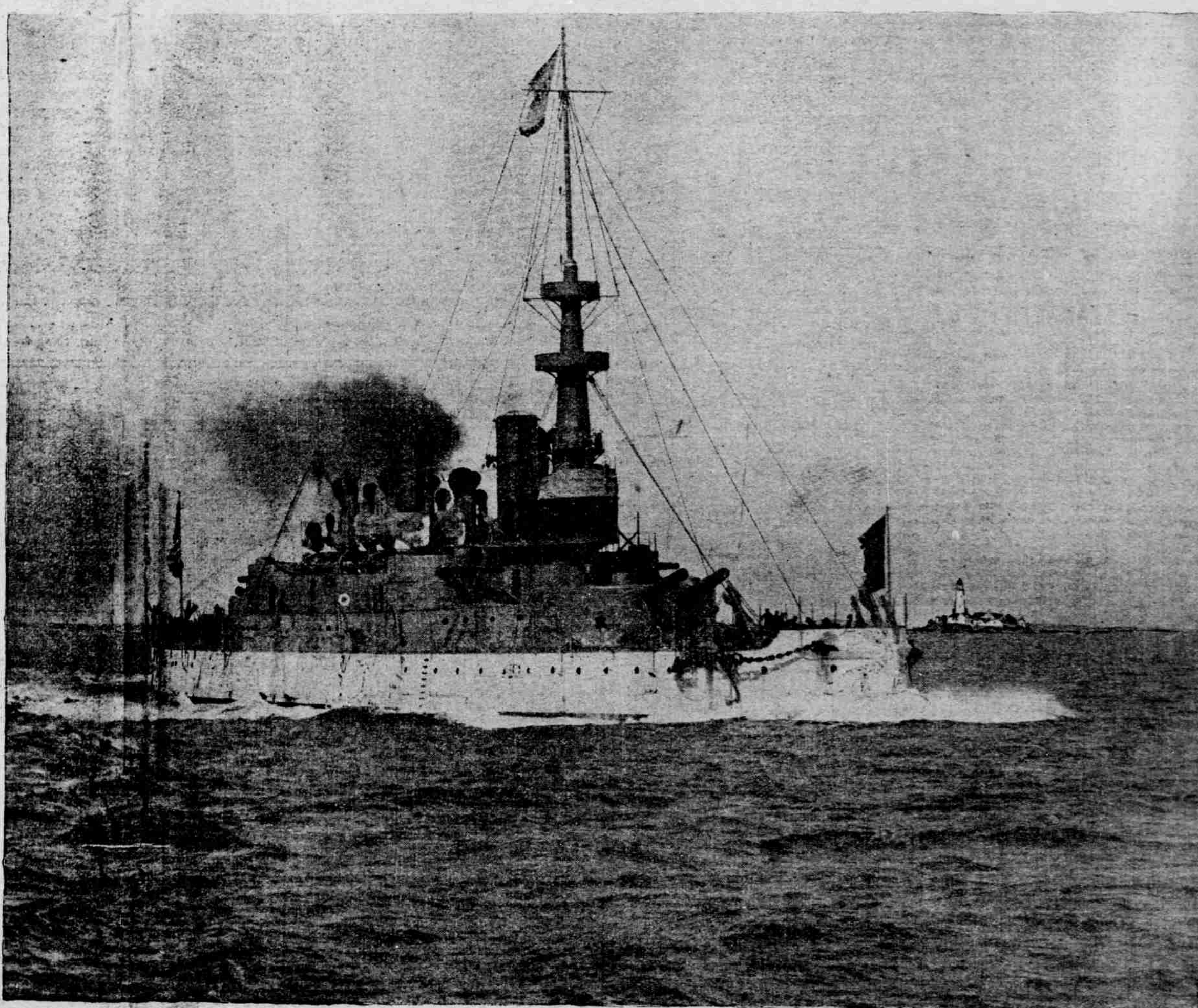
Mr. McKinley says he recognizes "that the issuance of a proclamation of neutrality, by which process the so-called recognition of belligerence is published, could, of itself and unattended by other action, accomplish what we have sought to do by other means."

(Continued on second page.)



REAR-ADMIRAL JOHN G. WALKER.

A Gallant Naval Officer Who is Coming to the Front Again. Rear-Admiral John Grimes Walker, who is likely to be summoned from his retirement for important service, was born in New Hampshire in 1835, of Scotch-Irish parentage. He comes from a long line of military ancestors. He was appointed from Iowa to the Naval Academy in 1856, and was a Lieutenant at the breaking out of the war. He commanded the gunboat Winona when Farragut passed the forts below New Orleans, and the next year was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander, and commanded the ironclad Baron de Kalb before Vicksburg. His vessel was blown up by a torpedo during the operations on the Mississippi, and he commanded a naval battery during the siege of Vicksburg. He commanded the Shawmut at Fort Fisher and the capture of Wilmington. After the war he filled various positions with great credit, particularly that of Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, where his enlightened ideas and energy and firmness did very much to improve the personnel and material of the Navy. He resigned this to command the "Squadron of Evolution," which showed the world our new Navy. He was promoted to Commander in 1889, but his pronounced ideas as to Hawaii did not find favor with the Cleveland Administration, and he was put aside. He was retired as a Rear-Admiral by the operation of the law, March 29, 1873.



THE UNITED STATES BATTLESHIP INDIANA UNDER FULL HEADWAY.